



A health impact assessment of California's proposed cap-and-trade regulations

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Abstract:

OBJECTIVES: To identify unintended health effects of California's controversial cap-and-trade regulations and establish health-promoting policy recommendations, we performed a health impact assessment. **METHODS:** We used literature reviews, public data, and local health surveys to qualitatively assess potential health risks and benefits related to changes in employment and income, energy costs, effects of emission offset projects, and cobenefits from the allocation of program revenue. We examined case studies from various communities to find existing social, economic, and environmental health conditions. **RESULTS:** We found that policy implementation will minimally impact job creation (< 0.1% change) and that health effects from job sector shifts are unlikely. Fuel prices may increase (0%-11%), and minor negative health effects could accrue for some low-income households. **CONCLUSIONS:** Offset projects would likely benefit environmental health, but more research is needed. Allocating some program revenue for climate change adaptation and mitigation would have substantial health benefits. Health impact assessment is a useful tool for health agencies to engage in policy discussions that typically fall outside public health. Our results can inform emission reduction strategies and cap-and-trade policy at the federal level.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2105/ajph.2011.300527>

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Temperature

Temperature: Extreme Heat

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

United States

Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation):

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

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Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Mental Health/Stress, Morbidity/Mortality

Mental Health Effect/Stress: Stress Disorder

Intervention:

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

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Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Mitigation

Model/Methodology:

type of model used or methodology development is a focus of resource

Cost/Economic, Exposure Change Prediction

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern:

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Low Socioeconomic Status

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion

Timescale:

time period studied

Medium-Term (10-50 years)

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

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